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a tendency to diagnose any case as a case in his own line? Is it not true that many surgeons perform surgical operations which are not necessary?

I doubt if the methods of German warfare, examined in the light of history and the facts of warfare by the English, for instance, are at all extraordinary. As far as using poisonous gas is concerned, I understand the French introduced poisonous gas, but were merely not so successful in its use. It would seem that in this particular instance the Emperor was slightly justified in his self-conceit. And just the other evening I saw an advertisement in the *American Machinist* which told of the superior quality of the ammunition it advertised over that of other ammunition of the same kind, and, if I am not greatly mistaken, the superiority consisted merely in its greater effectiveness. Is not that considered the most important thing in ammunition of all kinds? When men begin to make war, are they inclined to use the less effective methods of killing their enemies, especially if the same method was introduced, though less effectively, by their enemies?

Just because you are different from me does not prove that you are insane, or vice versa, does it?

J. MANDERY.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.

CONCERNING UNEMPLOYMENT AND UNPERFORMANCE

SIR,—I have read with much interest the editorial in the May issue of *THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* on "Unemployment and Unperformance." I append some comments which I cannot refrain from making; but all the same, I wish to thank you for the thought-arousing editorial.

If philanthropists and publicists and sociologists will make these rational views of the case clear and will encourage the army of the unemployed to choose promptly and aright, and if they will also facilitate the agreeable and successful pursuit of the chosen courses, they will find the way opening for a solution of the problem.—*NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW* for May.

An adult suffering from unemployment is seldom in a position to "choose." It requires information and money to seek, find, and reach new fields of employment. It is a well-recognized sociological law that choice of vocation in the first instance presupposes a comfortable margin of income and leisure. The enforced idleness of unemployment hardly complies with the conditions of leisure which allow the possessor to make a discriminating choice. Certainly unemployment is seldom accompanied by a sufficient accumulation of savings to approximate an excess of income beyond daily needs.

Adaptability, though conferred on individuals in different degrees, is developed by a broad and liberal education. The army of the unemployed is not recruited largely from the ranks of those who have received such an education. The path of industrial development has everywhere been strewn with the wrecks of men who could not adapt themselves to new conditions. One of the most difficult achievements in the world is to successfully transfer men in middle age from familiar conditions and tasks to new surroundings and changed routine.

Philanthropists, publicists, and sociologists may talk, but only by well-organized bureaus of distribution will the great army of the unemployed be brought into contact with new fields of labor. And if bureaus of distribution

are needed to put labor where it is wanted, training schools to prepare adults for new vocations are even more necessary.

Women object to entering domestic service [says the REVIEW] because they dislike to be called "servants," and young men similarly eschew agriculture for fear of being considered louts and "hayseeds."

The vocation of servant and the vocation of farm laborer have even more serious disabilities than the stigma of belonging to the lowest rank of the social order. Even with the now-familiar Thursday afternoon off, and, perhaps, every other Sunday afternoon and evening added, the life of the average servant is far from desirable. Seven-thirty breakfast for the business man and seven o'clock dinner at night mean two or three hours more for morning preparation and evening serving and cleaning up. The family servant is thus on duty some fourteen hours. Until housekeeping is put upon a business basis so that the required service may be concentrated into reasonable working hours, we cannot hope to see many women, or men for that matter, "choose" this vocation. Though numbers may be forced into it, one can hardly expect even the ignorant and downtrodden to prefer fourteen-hour days of domestic service to eight and ten-hour days in factory or shop.

It may be true that the mental suffering resulting from the epithet of "hayseed" has driven a few farm boys to the city, but it is much more probable that the long, monotonous hours of labor without responsibility for the results and without share in the returns, the apparently narrow margin of a disappearing profit, and the absolute lack of recreation and mental stimulus of the average farm, have united to drive the vast majority of country boys to the city, where—in prospect at least—industry is rewarded, recreation provided, and opportunity is varied.

The tasks are not set by the laborer. They are set by the employer. The machinery for distribution and adaptation must be set going by those who have that margin of leisure and income which may insure right choice.

H. JAMES.

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FOUR NOTABLE WAR ARTICLES

SIR,—I was much interested in reading four papers in the May number of THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW. They stand in logical connection, pointing the way to that new world of peace for which we are all earnestly hoping.

First stands the "Why?" by W. D. Howells, that brings out in full force the reasons for our sympathy and support of the Allies, and especially of England. The full "Why" of the war is not developed, but it never can be while the ambitions and designs of the Powers are contained in the secret cabinets of emperors and kings.

When peace comes through the complete overthrow of German military power, then one great idea in aid of world peace presented by Norman Angell in "Neutralization of the Sea" will be a question for world consideration. When the ocean is prohibited as a fighting-ground for belligerent nations, it will not be far to "peace on earth" as well. When battleships of belligerent nations may meet on the ocean, as a German and an Englishman might meet today on American soil, saluting in quiet dignity as they pass, even so the enemy ships on the open sea would show their colors and pass on,